

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, beginning on the evening of Monday, November 16, 1903. The evening session will be for the election of officers and members and for the transaction of routine business. Tuesday and the following days the sessions will be for the presentation and discussion of scientific papers, and will be open to the public. Members intending to present communications are requested to forward the titles of their papers to the Secretary, Mr. John H. Sage, Portland, Conn., so as to reach him not later than November 13.

PROFESSOR WILBER CLINTON KNIGHT, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home at Laramie, Wyoming, July 28, 1903, of peritonitis, after an illness of six days. Prof. Knight was born at Rochelle, Ills., Dec. 13, 1858. His boyhood days were passed upon the farm where daily communion with Nature exercised a marked influence upon his tastes, which were early indicated by his choice of books and the lines of study he pursued. With his people he moved to Nebraska where he obtained his education, graduating a Bachelor of Science from the State University in 1886. Immediately following his graduation he was appointed Assistant Territorial Geologist for Wyoming, and thereafter progress in his profession may be summed up as follows: The year 1887-88, Assayer at Cheyenne; Superintendent of mines in Colorado and Wyoming, 1888 to 1893; Professor of Mining, University of Wyoming, 1893 and 1894; Professor of Geology, Mining Engineering, Principal of the School of Mines, Geologist of the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station, and Curator of University Museum from 1894 to date of his death; State Geologist 1898-99.

Well earned post graduate degrees of M. A. and Ph. D. were conferred upon Prof. Knight by the University of Nebraska in 1893 and 1901, respectively.

Numerous publications from his pen, usually in the form of bulletins or magazine articles, have appeared from time to time, the most important of the former being as follows: Bulletin No. 1, 'The Petroleum of the Salt Creek Oil Field, its Technology and Geology,' 1896. Bulletin No. 2, 'The Petroleum Oil Fields of the Shoshone Anticlinal, Geology of the Popo Agie, Lander and Shoshone Oil Fields,' 1897. Bulletin No. 3, 'The Geology of the Oil Fields of Crook and Uinta Counties, Wyo.,' 1899. Bulletin No. 4, 'Geology of the Oil Fields of Natrona County, Excepting Salt Creek.' Bulletin No. 5, 'The Newcastle Oil Fields, Wyo.' Bulletin No. 6, 'The Bonanza, Cottonwood and Douglas Oil Fields,' 1903. Bulletin No. 14, 'Geology of the Wyoming Experiment Farms,' 1893. Special Bulletin, 'The Sweetwater Mining District.'

Bulletin 49, 'Alkali Lakes and Deposits'; and Bulletin No. 55, 'The Birds of Wyoming.'

A list of other publications which appeared in 'Science,' 'The Engineering and Mining Journal,' 'The American Manufacturer and Iron World,' 'Mineral Industry,' 'American Journal of Science,' 'National Geographic Magazine,' 'Journal of Geology,' 'Bulletin of the Geological Society of America,' Reports of the U. S. Geological Survey, and other periodicals of high standing, would include about forty titles, all of which were exploitations of the results of original research and painstaking investigation.

Of his bulletins, No. 55, 'The Birds of Wyoming,' is the only one devoted to the subject in which the readers of 'The Auk' have especial interest. While ornithology was a subject of secondary interest to Prof. Knight, the character of his bird work is in every way commendable. In his introductory to this bulletin the author says: "Being a geologist it may appear strange for me to pose as the author of a bird bulletin." One thing, however, was made plain; there was a great public demand for such a bulletin. It may be said, also, that such demand was supplied by this publication. It is interesting to note in this connection, that the demand for this publication shows that its popularity is greater than that of any other bulletin issued by authority of the Wyoming University. That extreme care and anxiety to be strictly accurate which marks all of the published works of Prof. Knight, is conspicuous here, the author's aim being to secure a correct list of Wyoming birds rather than a large one. A hypothetical list at the close of the bulletin supplied a place for species many less careful authors would have placed among the unquestioned birds of the State.

As a citizen and a man Prof. Knight stood in the first rank. He believed the interests of the community and of the State should command a reasonable share of the time and energy of the individual and he gave freely of both for the promotion of the general welfare. He died poor in worldly goods but rich in worthy accomplishments. His integrity, unassailable and unquestioned, often stood in the way of pecuniary advancement, but his record, now made up, is one his sons may emulate without fear of making a mistake. In his untimely death the American Ornithologists' Union loses an able and painstaking student and Associate.—F. B.

Dr. GUSTAV F. R. VON RADDE, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died early in the present year at Tiflis, Russia, in his 72d year. He was born at Danzig, November 27, 1831. From a short sketch of Dr. Radde's life published in 'The Ibis' (July, 1903, pp. 439, 440) we learn that he was the son of a schoolmaster, and early showed his predilection for Natural History. In 1852 and the following years he was employed in the Crimea as an assistant to the botanist Steven, and in 1854 published a memoir on the botany of the Tauric

Peninsula. In 1855 he was called to St. Petersburg by the Russian Geographical Society to join Schwartz's expedition to Amoorland, where he spent four years in exploration, the results of which were published in his well-known 'Reisen im Süden von Ost Sibirien,' in several quarto volumes with numerous plates, by the Russian Geographical Society in 1862-63. The second volume, entitled 'Die Festlands-Ornis des Südöstlichen Sibiriens,' is his most important ornithological publication, and through which he is well known to ornithologists. In 1864 "he took up his residence at Tiflis, where he founded a Natural History Museum and Library and remained actively engaged in their administration and on various kindred pursuits up to the time of his death. Next to the Siberian volume, Radde's 'Ornis Caucasica,' published at Cassel in 1884, is the one amongst his numerous scientific works and memoirs, illustrative of the Natural History of the Caucasus and of adjoining portions of the Russian dominions, by which he is best known to ornithologists." He was throughout his life an ardent traveller, and in recent years made voyages to Japan, India, and North Africa, with members of the Imperial family, with whom he seems to have been a favorite. "At the time of his death he was engaged in the preparation of an account of the collections of the Caucasian Museum, of which three volumes (out of six) have already appeared."

THE ANNUAL meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union was held at the meeting-room of the Zoölogical Society of London on the evening of May 13. Dr. F. DuCane Godman was re-elected President and Mr. Howard Saunders Secretary. Twenty new Ordinary Members were elected, and Capt. F. W. Hutton, F. R. S., Col. W. Vincent Legge, F. Z. S., and Alfred J. North, were elected Colonial Members, and Dr. Giacinto Martorelli, of Milan, a Foreign Member. Mr. Robert Ridgway was transferred from the list of Foreign Members to that of Honorary Members — the only American on whom has been conferred this honor since the decease of Professor Baird. In this connection it may be mentioned that Mr. Frank M. Chapman was elected a Foreign Member at the annual meeting in 1902.

MAJOR EDGAR A. MEARNS, Medical Department U. S. Army, was ordered to the Philippines some months since, and sailed from San Francisco for his new post of duty about the end of last June.

DR. CHARLES C. ADAMS, curator of the University of Michigan Museum at Ann Arbor, has announced, in a recent number of 'Science' (Aug. 14, p. 217; see also Bull. Michigan Orn. Club, IV, p. 63) the discovery of the breeding area of Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandi*). The capture of a specimen in June last in Oscoda County, Michigan, by Mr. E. H. Frothingham (see Bull. Michigan Orn. Club, IV, p. 47) led to

the sending of Mr. N. A. Wood, the taxidermist of the Museum, to make a thorough search for the nest and eggs of this rare species. The quest was successful, Mr. Wood securing "two nests with young and one egg, thus establishing beyond question the breeding area of this species," which had been heretofore wholly a matter of conjecture.

ACCORDING to a recently published report (P. Z. S., 1902, pp. 166-171) by the Secretary of the London Zoölogical Society, there were living in the Society's Gardens, in January, 1902, 147 specimens of Parrots, referable to 107 species, including several of great rarity. The oldest bird in the Parrot-house was a Cockatoo (*Cacatua gymnopsis*), which had been in the Society's possession for 33 years. The report is accompanied by a colored plate of *Eclectus westermanni*, showing the green male and the red, blue-breasted female, and also a plate of the rare *Platyercus masterianus*.

'OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS,' with the first number of Volume XXXI, appears in a new form and certainly has a very 'up to date' appearance. Its opening editorial presents "a retrospective glance at the progress of the work of animal protection during the past thirty years," briefly contrasting *now* with *then*. The change, as is stated, is due to *education*, in which the management of this magazine has taken so prominent a part. "The public conscience no longer tolerates cruelty, and to prove the fact of cruelty, however influentially supported, brings public opinion, in its ultimate form of legal enactment, when that is necessary, to the vindication of the rights of the weak against the inhumanity of the strong and the thoughtless." 'Our Animal Friends' has our highest respect and our best wishes, and we trust that its future career will be as influential and as successful in this great cause as it has been in the past.

MR. S. N. RHOADS is preparing a paper, to be presented at the next meeting of the A. O. U., to be held in Philadelphia in November, on the zoölogy of Delaware, with special reference to birds, and would be very glad to receive information—lists and specimens—bearing on the subject. Any assistance thus rendered will be duly accredited. Mr. Rhoads's present address is 121 S. 3rd St., Philadelphia, Pa.